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ALL VIRGINIA PEOPLE

LABOR AND MONOPOLIES

Second Lecture of Dr. Clark in the Thomas Course at Richmond College.

A HEART TO HEART TALK

"The Problem of Monopoly" Grows in Interest—Prominent Men Listening to Wisdom.

before another appreciative and cultured audience at Richmond College last evening, Dr. John B. Clark, of Columbia University, delivered the second of the twentieth course of Thomas lectures. The theme of the course, as already announced, is "The Problem of Monopoly," and the direct subject of the second lecture of the course was "Organized Labor and Monopolies."

In the audience last night were a number of prominent bankers and business men of the city and the active members of large industrial and commercial establishments, as well as a number of representatives of labor organizations. These representatives of the business world had been specially invited by President Boatwright of the college, to hear this course of lectures by one of the ablest and most prominent professors of economics in the country. Dr. Clark's reputation as a writer and thinker had preceded him, and to say that last night and the night before he maintained that reputation is but to state a fact that was manifested by the close attention given every utterance of the speaker and the frequent outbursts of applause which greeted his well rounded sentences.

INTERESTING INSTRUCTIVE.

Dr. Clark makes no pretense as an orator. He is an instructor. His manner is simple; his language plain, comprehensive and intensely instructive, and he goes right to the core of an argument in such a convincing way as to make his lofty and patriotic positions well nigh impregnable. He apparently does not attempt to convert anybody to his way of thinking, and uses none of the arts of the orator. He simply states facts, from which he draws conclusions and leaves them, as to accuracy and righteousness, with the intelligence and righteousness of the thinking mind. He is certain to leave his hearer at the end of every paragraph with something to think about.

THE LECTURE.

The whole industrial revolution, Dr. Clark said, may be traced to a mechanical cause. Machinery had done it. And it was done by breaking in the tea-kettle that, according to tradition, the boy Watt sat watching almost one hundred and fifty years ago. As he watched the steam lifting the lid and letting it off, he got the idea of a new motive power that should drive the machinery of that day. But what he did not see was the multiplying of machines, the concentration of capital, the organization of labor, the extension of the sumptuous, the privileges of social classes, and the dangers to free government contained.

In one way the famous kettle was talismanic; it let loose the host of genii who were to do our work for us, and the labor of the present is becoming more and more like the simple process of touching a button and letting the machine do the rest. In another way it was a veritable witches' cauldron. A single drop of oil and water will come out of it, too, and make not only the consolidation of labor and capital that mean efficiency, but those that mean strife and corruption and travail to democracy, which might conceivably mean the extinction of the free government, cause and effect."

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or no need of detecting off men who come to consider it, however a few men come home at all will come. But where will this leave the non-union workers? In a pitiable condition, excluded from all the better parts of the field of employment.

THINGS DEMANDING REMEDY.

These things, therefore, need remedying: First, the violence that attends strikes; secondly, the extortion practiced on the public and the hardship imposed on the community; or, the fact that in some cases, an employer acquires a monopoly of its field. Authoritative arbitration, the settlement of disputes by an appeal to justice, rather than an appeal to courts, is a remedy. Another suggestion is to have a good one. It encounters opposition from the strong trade unions, who think they can do better without it. Settling an industrial dispute by a strike is a bad policy. So long as labor is incompletely organized it will rely upon its own peculiar kind of "personality" to prevent men from taking other positions which it may wish to have.

A TWO-EDGED SWORD.

The trust, on the other hand, has a great power of resisting a trade union if it chooses that alternative.

For the power is to make large concessions to the trade unions if it chooses that alternative.

It can raise the price of its products and tax the public, who share benefits with its workers. It often has a powerful incentive to strike, since the worker has much to gain by it, and there is very great evil resulting from a strike when it vacates its posts.

For a public a strike is far more disastrous than one would think on a single pull under the old regime, meant no great hardship to consumers.

To shut up a hundred miles under the present regime may mean a complete want of some article, temporary or otherwise.

This is the real suffering for lack of more. There is, therefore, a very powerful incentive to strike, since the worker has much to gain by it, and there is very great evil resulting from a strike when it vacates its posts.

DANGEROUS TEMPTATION.

There is a terrible temptation to violence in connection with the modern strike. The worker is demanding exorbitant wages, often more than can possibly be afforded.

His place can be hired for.

His place can be hired for.